

PBSC FAMILY LAW PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF LAW
2020-2021 PART-TIME SCHOOL-YEAR POSITIONS

WHAT IS PBSC?

Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) is a national multiple award-winning *pro bono* organization, with chapters in 22 law schools across the country. Founded in 1996 at the University of Toronto, PBSC is the largest *pro bono* organization in the country. PBSC's mission is to provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice. PBSC has extensive expertise and experience designing student placements that significantly enhance access to justice.

FAMILY LAW PROGRAM / ROLE OF STUDENTS

PBSC is developing and preparing to launch a brand new, first-of-its-kind family law initiative. The program will launch in the Fall of 2020 and will be administered by 8 part-time paid law students from across Ontario.

Working under the supervision of private bar family law lawyers, students will run regularly held **virtual legal clinics** where low-income clients can receive summary legal advice and, when necessary, assistance completing court forms. Court forms will be completed by law students with the oversight of supervising lawyers. The intake process for the virtual legal clinics will be managed by law students.

Students will also create **public legal education resources** aimed to assist self-represented litigants in navigating the family justice system. The resources may include short videos, flowcharts, and other engaging materials.

The new program will replace PBSC's long-running and award-winning Family Law Project (FLP). As a result of funding cuts and the pandemic, the FLP's in-court model was no longer feasible. This new initiative aims to maintain the same high-impact client-facing work while continuing to provide law students with a practical and meaningful experience.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the program will operate virtually. Operating virtually will enable the program to serve clients from anywhere in Ontario, including in remote areas where the justice gap can be most prevalent. It will also allow private lawyers throughout the province to volunteer with this initiative.

8 JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Between all Ontario Chapters)

PBSC is hiring **8 part-time upper-year law students** from across Ontario.

Students will work **10-15 hours per week** from approximately October 2020 to March 2021 (not including December). The specific start date will be confirmed.

Compensation is **\$17 per hour** plus 4% (vacation pay).

REQUIREMENTS

Essential Qualifications:

- Must be an upper-year law student at University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- Completed upper-year family law course or will enrol in upper-year family law course during the 2020-2021 academic year
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work productively in a team and independently
- Willingness to learn and reflect

Assets (Non-Essential):

- Experience volunteering with PBSC's Family Law Project
- Experience working in family law
- Direct experience working with clients
- Fluency in French
- Experience creating video content and webinars

***Technology required* for this job: computer, internet, video and audio conference capabilities.**

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

A position in PBSC's new family law program provides an excellent opportunity to:

- develop leadership, communication, and project management skills;
- gain experience working directly with clients;
- enhance legal drafting skills;
- network with lawyers in the Ontario family law bar; and
- receive in-depth exposure to family law.

Students will receive training regarding family law, legal research, trauma-informed lawyering and anti-discrimination/unconscious bias.

PBSC EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

To reflect our diverse communities nation-wide, Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) is strongly committed to employment equity, diversity, and inclusion. We especially welcome applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S + persons, and members of other equity-seeking groups protected by human rights law in Canada.

PBSC offers accommodation in accordance with the applicable provincial human rights law.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Interested candidates should send their cover letter, resume, and a list of three references with contact information to dana.rotenberg@probonostudents.ca by **September 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. Please note that references do not need to be professional references and that they will not be contacted unless we have interviewed you and have notified you in advance.

For more information, please contact Dana Rotenberg at dana.rotenberg@probonostudents.ca.